

Connecticut Tax Collectors Association

Testimony against HB 5317 (Sec. 3), An Act Concerning the Interest Rate on Delinquent Property Taxes.

Gisela Harma, CCMC
Stonington Tax Collector

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Good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile and members of the Planning and Development Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of my office and the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association against **HB 5317 (Sec. 3) An Act Concerning the Interest Rate on Delinquent Property Taxes.**

Although Tax Collectors are committed to enforcing the law and collecting whatever interest rate is set by State Statute, I would strongly urge that the delinquent interest rate remain **uniform** in the State. Permitting municipalities to lower the rate of interest by vote of the legislative body or board of selectman makes delinquent interest a political issue. It should be a matter of fairness from one municipality to another, not a political issue.

Our difficult jobs are made somewhat easier by our strict reliance on statutes which clearly leave no room for favoritism. The laws are the same for each town and each taxpayer. Taxpayers know that when they are charged interest because they are late that they are being treated exactly the same as all other residents in Connecticut. No one is receiving special treatment just because they elected people to office because they agreed to lower their rate of interest for their town.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your consideration in this matter.

Gisela Harma, CCMC
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